

The background of the slide features a city skyline, likely London, with several prominent skyscrapers. The skyline is reflected in a body of water. A semi-transparent blue layer is overlaid on the entire image, creating a monochromatic effect. The text is placed on this blue layer.

Strengthening and redesigning European FLOOD risk practices

Headlines and first results.

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The Starflood project



- EU 7th Framework Project STAR-FLOOD: STrengthening And Redesigning European FLOOD risk practices: Towards appropriate and resilient flood risk governance arrangements (2012-2016) (www.starflood.eu)
- **Coordinator:** Prof. Dr. Peter P. J. Driessen (Utrecht University)
- 6 countries: UK, F, NL, B, S, P
- 8 partners: public research centres, social scientists and legal fellows;
- 2 partners for dissemination activities



STARFLOOD Partners

Partners	Countries
Universiteit Utrecht	The Netherlands
Stichting Katholieke Universiteit	The Netherlands
Middlesex University Higher Education Corporation	United Kingdom
Universiteit Antwerpen	Belgium
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, KUL	Belgium
Lulea Tekniska Universitet, LUT	Sweden
Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment, Polish Academy of Science	Poland
Université de Tours / Université Paris Est Créteil	France
CEPRI (Centre Européen de prévention de Risque d'Inondation)	France
Grontmij Nederland, Gront	The Netherlands

18 Urban regions investigated



Main research question

“What are appropriate Flood Risk Governance Arrangements (FRGAs) for dealing with flood risks in vulnerable urban agglomerations in Europe ?”



STAR-FLOOD: an EU FP7 project on flood risk governance

- Background: increasing flood risks due to urbanisation and the effects of climate change
- Hypothesis: urban areas will be more resilient if several Flood Risk Management Strategies are combined and integrated



A Policy Arrangement Approach



- => We assume that the five Flood Risk Management Strategies (FRMS) are developed, institutionally embedded and put into practice by different Flood Risk Governance Arrangements (FRGAs).

Policy arrangement = the result of a dynamic interplay between:

- Actors
- Discourses
- Rules
- Resources



Two levels of analysis

- **National Flood Policies and Regulations domain :**
Level of flood governance incorporating policies connected to the five Flood Risk Strategies (Prevention, Defence, Mitigation, Preparation, Recovery)
- and
- **Case study Level:** The five Flood Risk Strategies and governance in urban agglomeration



Research operational objectives

- Identifying **which FRSs are applied** in different urban agglomerations in EU member states
- Analyzing the **emergence of current FRGAs in different urban agglomerations** in EU Member States by studying stability and dynamics in these arrangements in at least the past two decades;
- **Explaining stability and dynamics in these FRGAs** by identifying explanatory factors and determining the relative importance of each of them
- **Evaluating the extent to which these FRGAs are resilient** (i.e. manage to develop, implement and align different FRSs) **and appropriate** (i.e. legitimate, efficient and effective) and distinguishing good practices for flood risk
- **Elaboration of design principles** for FRGA in EU

Where are we now?

WP	Work package Title	Year													
		1				2				3					
1	Problem analyses	█	█	█	█										
2	Assessment Framework			█	█	█	█	█	█						
3	Country analyses									█	█	█	█		
4	Country comparison													█	█
5	Design framework													█	█
6	Scientific integration	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
7	Knowledge dissemination	█	█												
8	Project management	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█



Preliminary findings at EU level



Main factors framing Flood Risk Management in each country

- A free-standing problem (as in the Floods Directive);
 - A water management problem (e.g. the IWRM framing)
 - One of several hazards, often specifically natural hazards (which might be argued to be the traditional French approach);
 - A problem in terms of adaptation to climate change
- ⇒ Flood issues can be seen as an **‘environmental’** problem, a **‘safety’** problem or **otherwise**.
- ⇒ Countries seem to differ in terms of solutions:
- =>to maximise safety by increasing protection levels
 - =>to detect and minimise vulnerabilities

Main trends in Flood risk management in the six countries

Flood risks can no longer be dealt with by focusing solely on **flood defences** (building dikes, dams, embankments etc.)

Actors at various levels (international, European, national as well as regional) wish for and make efforts at a **diversification of Flood Risk Management**

Strategies: multiple strategies are applied simultaneously and linked together.

These strategies include pro-active **spatial planning** (building permits), flood **mitigation** in various ways (e.g. urban green infrastructures, adaptive buildings), flood **preparation** and flood **recovery**

Debates on intervention strategies: Two types of approaches (1)

- **France, UK, The Netherlands and Belgium:**
 - => shift towards flood risk management and away from flood defence
 - ⇒ reduced reliance on engineered solutions (Netherlands, UK).

However, to what extent we can really speak of a shift in practice ?



Debates on intervention strategies: Two types of approaches (2)

- **Poland and Sweden:**

=> Societal discussion on floods seems to be virtually absent in Sweden,

=> the debate in Poland – due to the occurrence of recent devastating floods – seems to be held entirely in terms of flood protection and water safety.



Rules of the game: Two main principles

- The **solidarity principle**: the principle that society as a whole should cover certain flood-related costs.
 - The **private interest principle**: costs should be carried by those who encounter most risk or benefit most from FRM measures
- => all the six countries are located in a continuum between these two end points, but in none of the countries there is a one-sided focus on only one of these end points
- **France** seems to attach much importance to the solidarity principle
- vs
- **England** is the most inclined to emphasise the private interest principle



The French case: first key findings



Flood Domain

Prevention

Strong political and social legitimacy (through planning) and pillar of an integrated approach

Recovery

Solidarity as unquestioned constitutional principle
Original public-private coop.

Mitigation

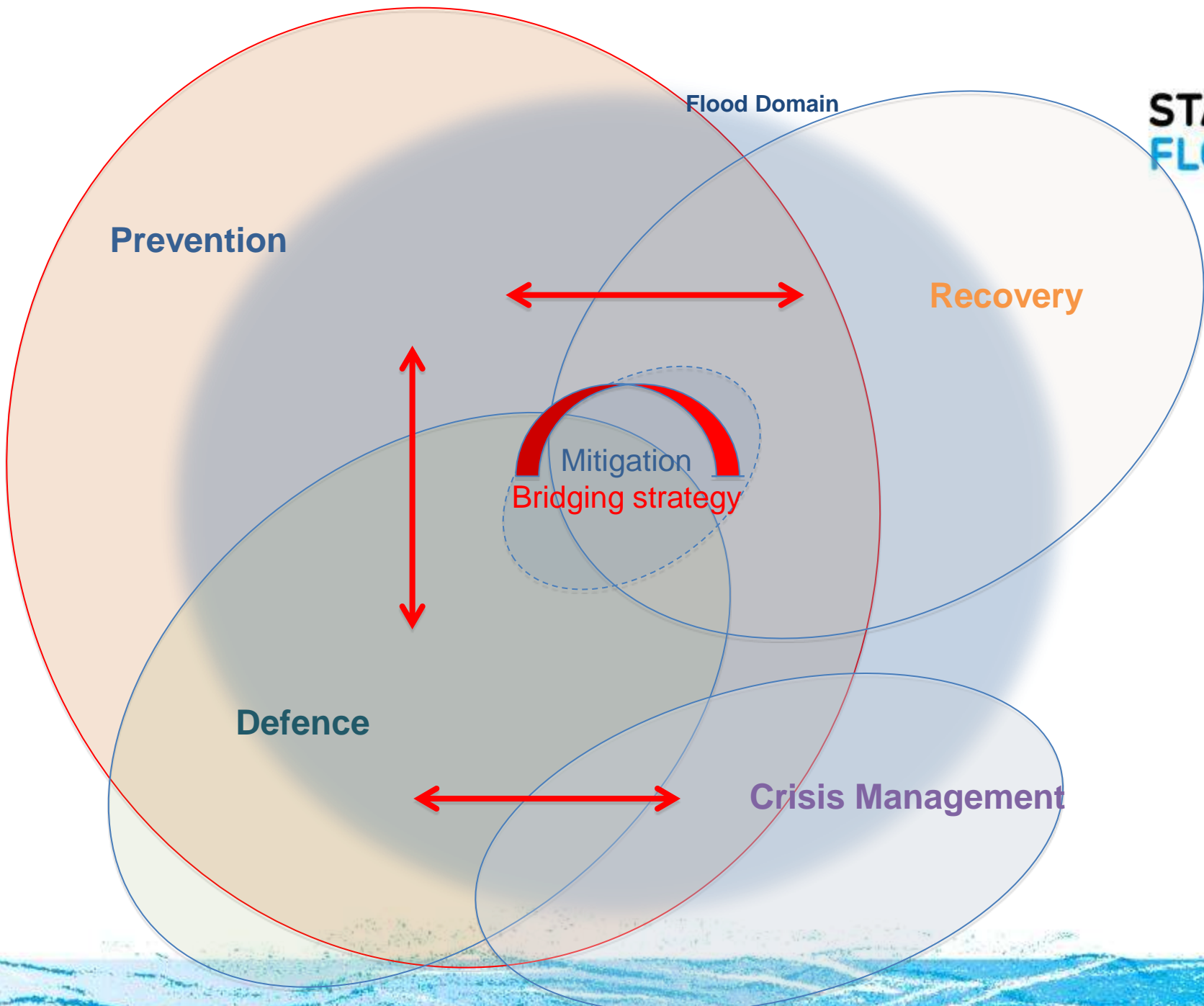
The most heterogeneous, innovative and bottom-up

Defence

Dominant strategy in terms of public investments BUT not as a discourse

Crisis Management

Independent, State domain
Citizens' rising role
Multi-risk



Flood Domain

Prevention

Recovery

Defence

Crisis Management

Mitigation
Bridging strategy

Some conclusive remarks

- **Multiple Explanatory factors**

- ✓ Physical events
- ✓ National political factors (Budget reduction, decentralization)
- ✓ Flood Directive

- **Some good principles (more than practice)**

- ✓ PAPI as exemplary design principle?
- ✓ Cat-Nat as double sided measure (good recovery measure but bad prevention approach)

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Thank you!

